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Stony Brook Pediatrics is Changing Lives

"At Stony Brook Pediatrics, we have the privilege of sharing in the lives of many families in our community. We see families at the best of times, and at very stressful times. Having a sick family member can be very disruptive to the entire family."

- Dr. Joan Flender



Most know Stony Brook Pediatrics as a doctor's office where children up to the age of 19 go to when they are feeling ill or need a routine check-up. But did you know that they also provide gas cards, cash, assistance with bills, and even babysitting for families in a medical crisis?

In 2008, Stony Brook Pediatrics decided to create a foundation called "The Endowment for Children Foundation." This is a fund families can access when they are in a medical crisis. Dr. Joan Flender, a doctor at Stony Brook, states "We see these wonderful people in situations and they have limited community resources to help. There is government support for heat and housing, and Medicaid for healthcare bills, but who pays the gas money to get to the major medical center for treatment? Who pays for daycare for the other children while parents are in the hospital with a sick child? Who pays for the swim lessons so the other children can have some sort of normalcy in their lives?".

Stony Brook has always been one to help when they see their patients in a crisis. As the office started to grow, they wanted to expand their ability to help. Therefore, they created a bank account and started putting funds aside.

The Foundation has helped between 30 to 50 families every year with small expenses and about five families with larger expenses.

In 2019, the Class of 2020 raised money for "The Endowment for Children Foundation." They sold homecoming t-shirts to the community with their homecoming theme on it, Toy Story. They raised \$250! A Class of 2020 senior states, "I think what we did for the Foundation is wonderful. I'm proud to be a part of such a giving class."

Stony Brook still offers smaller expense items such as gas cards, food cards, and more, but the larger expenses get referred to the Foundation.

If you need help and are in a medical crisis, you can contact the Stony Brook Pediatrics office or if the office knows you personally and knows the situation they will offer their support. If you would like to contribute to the Foundation, you can do so by bringing in a check to the office and making it out to the Stony Brook Endowment.

Flender states, "We are grateful for the many families who make the Endowment part of their annual giving, as well as the continued annual support from the physicians and providers at Stony Brook Pediatrics, and by no means do "we want recognition." They want to give back to their community when they are going through stressful times.

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